

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

☐

DATE

October 15, 2009

MOTOR CARRIER MATTER

☐

DOCKET NO.

2009-144-C

UTILITIES MATTER

☒

ORDER NO.

**SUBJECT:**

DOCKET NO. 2009-144-C - Application of TracFone Wireless, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Carolina for the Limited Purpose of Offering Lifeline and Link Up Service to Qualified Households – A Hearing was Held on September 3, 2009. Discuss this Matter with the Commission.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

TracFone has made it clear in its filings before the Commission and at the hearing held on September 3 that it does not believe it should be required to contribute to the state universal service fund (USF), and that if the Commission held that the Company would be required to make state USF contributions as a condition of being granted ETC designation, it would elect not to offer Lifeline and Link Up service in this state. This Commission currently requires other wireless carriers designated as ETCs to contribute to the State USF. These other wireless carriers would be placed at a competitive disadvantage if we were to allow TracFone to obtain ETC designation without requiring TracFone to contribute likewise. Commission Regulation 103-690 allows us to impose such regulations on ETC applicants as shall be in the public interest. Additionally, we are charged under Sections 214 and 254 of the Federal Telecommunications Act to determine whether an ETC designation is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. I do not believe it would be in the public interest to grant TracFone the ETC designation it seeks without requiring the Company to contribute to the State USF. The purpose of the State USF is to facilitate the offering of telephone service to all of the people of South Carolina, even in areas where it might otherwise be economically infeasible to offer telephone service. It is in the public interest that we ensure adequate levels of funding for the State USF. I therefore move that we deny TracFone's petition for ETC designation to offer Lifeline and Link Up service.

PRESIDING: FlemingSESSION: RegularTIME: 2:30 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER
FLEMING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HAMILTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Absent</u> Annual Leave
HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MITCHELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
WHITFIELD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
WRIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

